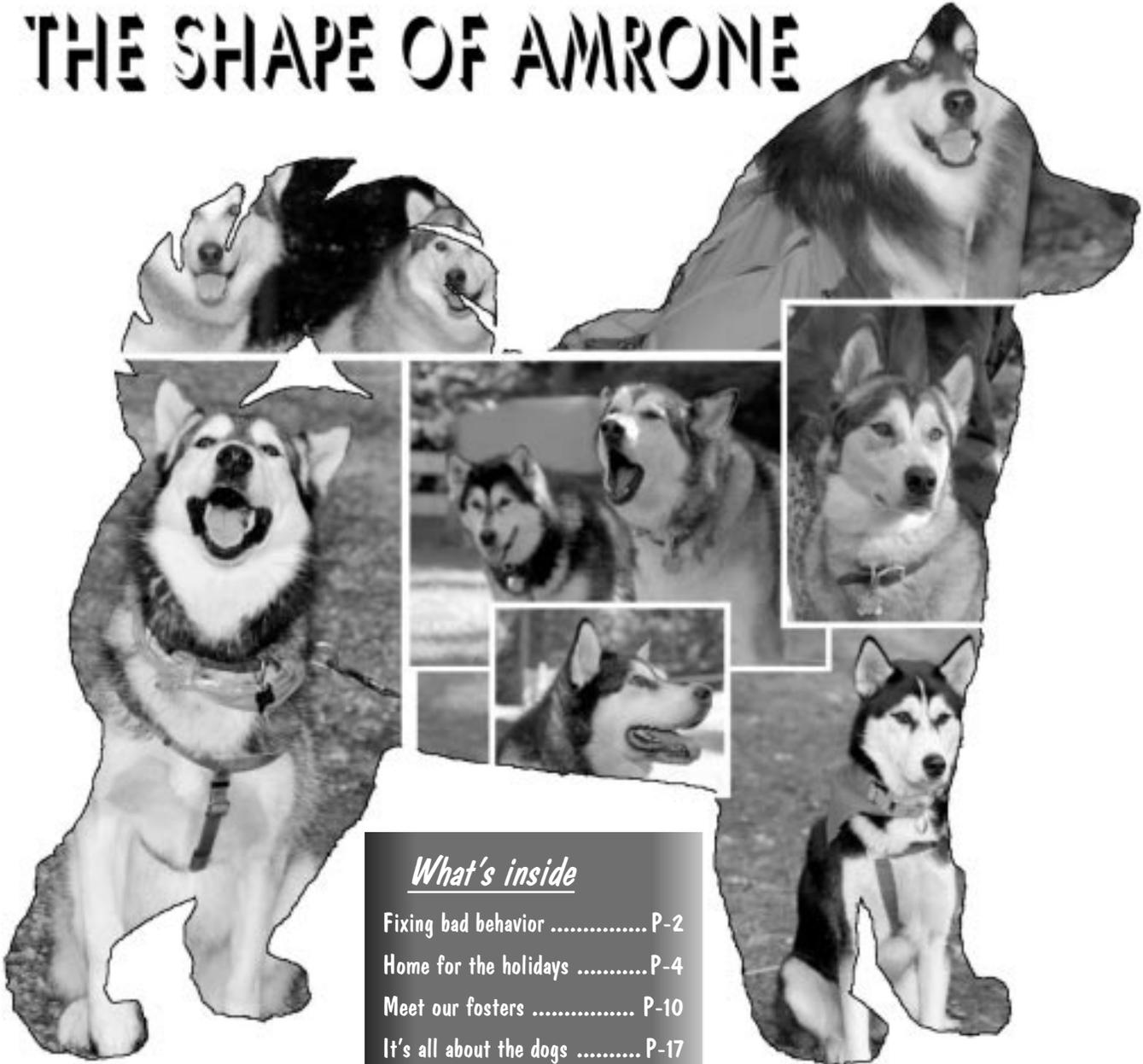


AMRONE Tales

Volume 5, No. 2 Autumn 2005

🐾 Uniting great dogs with great people 🐾

THE SHAPE OF AMRONE



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'I've tried EVERYTHING!'

Betcha you haven't!

By JULIA V. McDONOUGH

"DRU University, this is Julia."

"Julia, we've got some bad news. We've got to give up on Bart. He started doing this growly stuff in the house and it's just too much for us to handle."

"OK, let me email you a behavior questionnaire so we can figure out what we're dealing with before you drive all the way here from New Jersey."

"No, you don't understand. We just can't keep him. He's been doing this for almost a year and we've tried everything. It just isn't going to work out."

"You've tried everything?"

"Yes. Everything."

"Who are you currently training with?"

"Excuse me?"

"Who are you training with right now?"

"Um...we aren't training with anyone right now. We took a puppy class two years ago at Pet Supply Central, though."

"What's Bart's T4 look like?"

"His what?"

"His thyroid profile. You've talked with your veterinarian about this, right?"

"I'm not sure what you mean."

"If you had a choice, would you rather keep Bart or

give him up?"

"Well, we love him! Of course we want to keep him, but we can't. We've tried..."

"I know, you've tried everything — everything except working with a balanced trainer and a veterinarian. So in other words, you haven't really tried anything."

Silence.

"Let me send you that questionnaire and I'll get you a good trainer in your area. Meanwhile, get a pen. Here's what to ask your veterinarian."



In the front lines of rescue work, we hear a lot of the same things from people who are at the end of their proverbial rope. One of the most common claims we encounter when a Doberman owner finds himself over his head is that he has "tried everything."

This owner is not necessarily a careless or neglectful person looking for an excuse to dump his dog. It is much more common for him to be a genuinely compassionate dog lover who has explored the solutions to his problem to the best of his abilities, often enlisting the help of outside experts. After visiting with one trainer or behaviorist, he may feel as though he has run out of options. Spending a lot of time and money only to find that the problem still exists can make a dog owner believe that his pet is beyond help.

The problem with the "I've tried everything" mentality is that it cuts the dog's chances for success almost before he ever gets them. His owner, frustrated and confused, cannot see the forest for the trees.

The owner of a young adult male Doberman calls to report that "Harry" cannot get through the day without

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Public education: Where does it fit into AMRONE?

By Stephanie Bayliss, Treasurer

[Part 2]

In the last newsletter, we discussed why and how AMRONE focuses some of its resources on education. One of the missions of the organization is the following. "To encourage responsible care of all dogs through public education, including materials relating to spay and neuter.

With the advent of the internet, a web site was a new avenue for communicating with prospective adopters and volunteers. This was a great way of displaying information about the dogs we had available for adoption. We began expanding the site to encompass information in additional areas.

The web site now includes a collection of topics that provide education to a wide range of audiences in the general public with different interests and needs.

Our introductory pages tell site visitors about AMRONE, who we are and what we do.

The adoption section has the dogs available for adoption, dogs previously adopted and memorial pages for former rescue dogs. It has information about the adoption process,



and an on-line application. There is also a section with information for people who need to find a new home for their dog.

The resources and education sections provide much information to dog owners and prospective owners, and links to many other helpful resources. There are sections covering many different aspects of dog ownership. AMRONE has received a number of compliments from visitors to our site, thanking us for all the information presented.

Our events section publicizes our education / social events: Camp N Pack and Bark in the Park, as well as other shows we participate in. The Help section tells visitors how to help rescue, our volunteer needs as well as financial and resource needs. These areas get new people involved in our organization.

The web site provides a very low cost marketing, publicity and education tool available to the general public at all times. It requires little

maintenance, usually only updates to dogs and events. Pages can be easily added, updated and modified as needed.

The newsletter is geared to a more specific audience – malamute owners, adopters, volunteers and AMRONE supporters. The newsletter covers some of the same areas as the web site – dogs available for adoption, articles of interest to mal owners covering topics such as health, behavior and training.

However, the newsletter is more in depth about the workings and current activities of AMRONE. Topics include profiles of volunteers, articles about our events, and success stories about adopted dogs.

We do not charge for the newsletter because it is part of our mission to educate, and it's important for all the people who support rescue to be kept informed and up to date on AMRONE's dogs, people and activities.

The web site and the newsletter, like all other functions within AMRONE, are done by hard working volunteers. If you're interested in helping with education in any format, please send us a note. Volunteers are always welcome.



Mail your donation to:

Alaskan Malamute Rescue
of New England, Inc.
57 Paige Hill Road
Brimfield, MA 01010

Give a gift from the heart

My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I would like to make the donation • in honor of • in memory of:

My Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State & Zip: _____

I prefer that my donation not be publicized.

Please make checks payable to: Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc.

Kia finds a home for the holidays

By Hannah R. McKinnon

Two years ago Deb and Steve Surabian were looking for a dog. Not just any dog. With a new marriage and a new home, the couple was starting a life together. But it just wasn't complete. Steve had always had a soft spot for Malamutes, and had owned one before. He admired their intelligence and independent spirit. For him, this was

the dog he wanted to adopt.



Steve and Deb began

researching local organizations. They decided that they would like to adopt an older dog. They knew there were plenty of dogs already out there in need of a good home, and they hoped to provide that for a special someone. After finding AMRONE online, the couple began reading dog profiles and submitted their application. Then they waited patiently for the phone call.

When AMRONE contacted Steve he was enthusiastic and quite knowledgeable about the breed. But it was his excitement that poured through the phone. He requested that he meet one dog in particular: Kia.

Kia lived in Rhode Island with his owner and was being surrendered directly from his home. He was 7 years old at the time and in need of a placement soon. While Kia waited to meet prospective adopters, Steve and Deb waited eagerly to meet him. Each step of the way during the application process they inquired



Kia has a discussion with Mika, a young German Shepard whom he has taken under his wing.

specifically about Kia and asked if he were still available.

Luckily, that meeting took place. Just after the Christmas holidays Steve received the call he'd been waiting for. Kia was indeed still available, and they could drive from their home in Tolland, CT, to Kia's home in Rhode Island. Within hours a time was arranged and soon Steve and Deb were in the car.

"When we went to see Kia that day, we knew he was the dog for us. He was super clean and friendly, and very well taken care of by his owner." Knowing how serious the couple was, volunteer Stephanie Bayliss was kind enough to drive down for the meeting. When it was clear this was the match everyone had hoped for, she pulled out the paperwork and the adoption was complete. "He really enjoyed the car ride home with us that day, and he took an immediate liking to Steve," Deb says.

Steve and Deb sectioned off their large family room and the three hunkered down and became acquainted as a pack. Right away Kia's good manners were apparent. In the two years since they became a family, Kia has never chewed or destroyed one thing in the house, even when left with free run.

After a successful integration, Deb recalls when Steve first left to go to work. "Kia howled so loud! But he never repeated that again because I think he learned that we would always come home to him."

Although Kia fit quite naturally and quickly into the family unit, there was one area of focus both Deb and Steve made a priority of: obedience training. Kia has been working with Mike from K9 Connection in Connecticut since joining his new family. They are very proud of the partnership they established with their trainer, and of the progress Kia has made. Steve says, "He trains using praise and positive reinforcement. Kia has learned so much with him."

Kia attended socialization classes and worked on obedience with the couple. Steve remembers one time thereafter when Kia accidentally got loose and took off from the family yard. With no treats or enticements in hand, all he had to do was yell, "Kia come!" Without hesitation Kia turned and raced right back for home.

Today Kia shares his home with Mika, a young German Shepard, whom he has taken under his wing. Steve and Deb recall how Kia barked

[Continued on Page 5]

Mysterious disease in dogs is a strain of flu from horses

By The Associated Press

A puzzling outbreak of respiratory disease in dogs has been tracked to a virus that has infected horses for decades — a transfer researchers say is rarely seen.

The illness first drew attention sweeping through kennels of racing greyhounds in several states, including Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and has been found in household dogs.

The flu kills 5 to 8 percent of infected dogs, Dr. Cynda Crawford of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine said. Some dogs get a cough, runny nose and fever while others show no symptoms at all.

The flu can cause symptoms similar to the common illness known as kennel cough, Crawford said. But kennel cough is usually caused by a bacteria while the new illness is caused by a virus.

Dr. Brad Fenwick, vice president for research at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, said he thinks mortality from this flu is even less than estimated by Crawford. If infected dogs are treated, mortality can be much lower, Fenwick said.

While the new virus is easily transferred between dogs, Crawford said people should not panic. Owners of dogs that have a respiratory infection should keep the animal home for at least two weeks, she said.

Asked if dog owners should avoid kennels or other activities, Crawford said she plans to continue boarding her dogs when needed, walking them in areas with other dogs and entering them at dog shows.

Fenwick agreed, adding that people should not use vaccines intended for horses on their dogs because the safety of the vaccines hasn't been tested in canines.

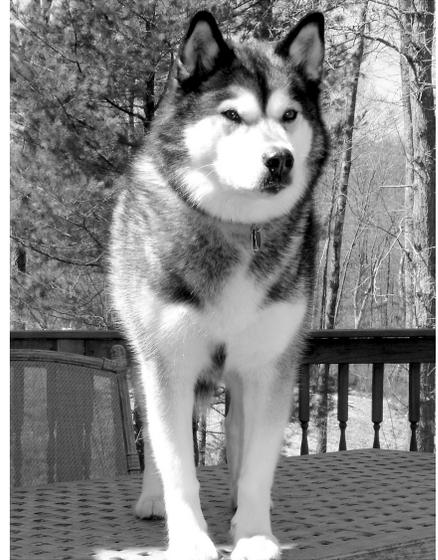
As for transmission to people, Crawford noted that the strain of flu has been known in horses for more than 40 years and there have been no documented cases of it moving to people. Nonetheless, Dr. Nina Marano of the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said the agency will monitor human exposure to the virus.

Dr. Ruben Donis of the CDC called the transfer of a virus from horses to dogs "a very rare event of considerable scientific interest with regards to understanding influenza virus transmission across species."

Donis said the researchers have identified eight to 10 genetic changes between the virus in horses and dogs, and they speculate that these changes affect the ability of the virus to attach to receptors on cells.

He said the research began in Florida and has traced the virus to dog tracks in other states and to pets in Massachusetts, Florida and New York.

Fenwick, who was not part of the research team, said it is not clear whether the transfer occurred first from horses to the racing greyhounds or to house pets. There are a lot more pet dogs around horses than racing dogs, he noted. The fact that it was first diagnosed in greyhounds could be because it spread to several animals in kennels where veterinarians were called in to treat the dogs. Since mortality is so low it might have gone largely unnoticed in pets, he suggested.



Kia surveys his domain.

Kia is top dog in his new home

[From Page 4]

at her the first few days whenever she'd touch the furniture or bite something she wasn't supposed to. The two are good friends and lively playmates.

Life is good for Kia. His favorite activities include sleeping on the couch and eating peanut butter in his Kong. Even a trip to the vet is considered a fun outing. Whenever Steve and Deb go away, either on a trip or out for an evening, Kia has two favorite dog sitters who come take care of him. "We never put him in a kennel," says Steve, knowing all the transition Kia already has experienced. Ever the gourmet, he often enjoys salmon fillet and vegetables while his owners dine modestly on pizza.

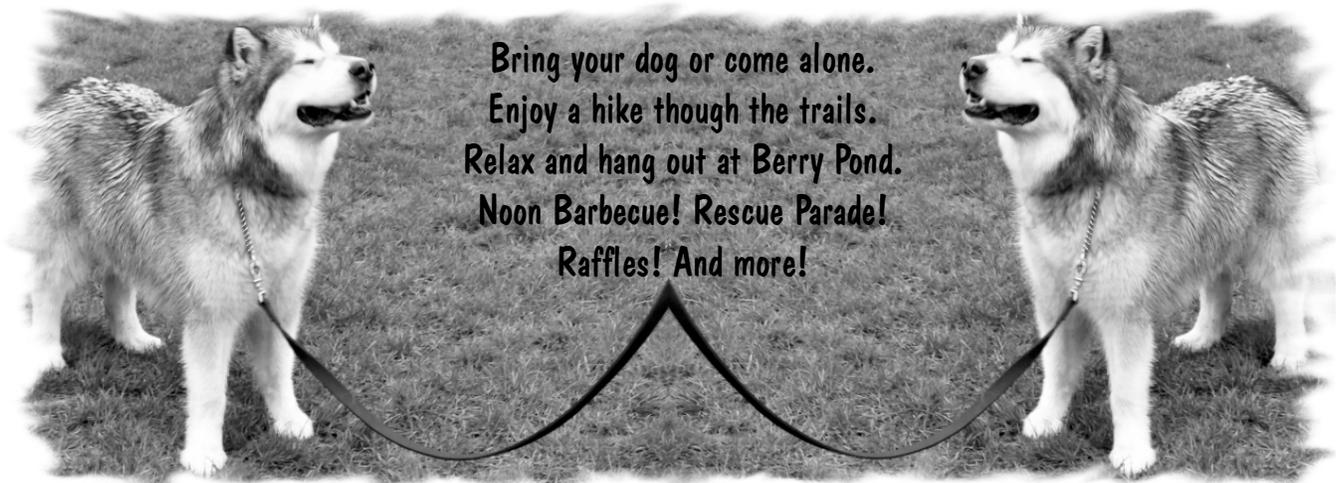
The first family dog, Kia remains top dog. "There's just something about Malamutes that no other dog can match. I've told people I'd give up the house before I'd give up Kia," says Steve. It's been two Christmases since Kia joined the Surabian family. And this dog definitely found home that happy holiday!

Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, Inc. Presents Our 5th Annual



Sunday, May 7, 2006*
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**At beautiful Berry Pond
Harold Parker State Forest
North Andover, MA**



**Bring your dog or come alone.
Enjoy a hike though the trails.
Relax and hang out at Berry Pond.
Noon Barbecue! Rescue Parade!
Raffles! And more!**

**Only dogs with proof of rabies vaccination are permitted to attend and all dogs must be on leashes.
For more information, please visit our web site at WWW.AMRONE.ORG.**

***Tentative date at time of publication. Check our web site for any changes and watch for a mailing in the spring.**

Owners fit into 3 categories

[From Page 2]

vomiting bile. Harry also has a chronic barking problem. Harry's owner has consulted with his veterinarian and put Harry on the recommended kibble. He has broken the feedings into three small meals but has seen no difference.

To address the other part of the problem, he has tried various anti-bark devices, all without results. Harry is never left alone outside for long periods of time, and is a treasured member of the household. However, even during the brief periods when the dog is put outside to relieve himself, his barking has made him Public Enemy #1 in his owner's neighborhood. With sadness in his voice, his owner tells us that he's tried everything. And at first glance, perhaps it seems that he has.

"Opal" belongs to a couple who work at home. She is a young, wild pup who ricochets off walls and gets into trouble at the drop of a hat. Her owners confine her when they leave the house, they make sure she gets out in the yard for lots of exercise and they take care to keep temptations such as the kitchen trash and the dirty laundry in places where Opal can't reach them. They've tried everything, right? At least that's what they say.

"Floyd" is a large middle-aged dog who has lived with his single female owner for five years. Over time, Floyd has become obnoxiously defensive and will lunge at passers-by when out walking. Even Floyd's veterinarian won't touch him anymore. His owner took an AKC Obedience class with him when he was younger, and has been careful to walk him only when other people are unlikely to be around. He is getting scarier every day. When he finally snaps at his long-suffering owner,

she is desperate. She feels as though she has failed him, even though she has tried everything. Has she?

Who says they've tried everything? I find that there are three general types.

The "Easy Fixer" isn't as common as you'd think, but he exists. He is usually the owner who starts out with great intentions but little determination. He and his family are typically a busy lot and simply don't have time to spend on addressing any problem behaviors.

Lured into ownership by fuzzy memories of lovely past pets and the present temptations of the glossy breed magazines, he is simply



Once you have traveled the bad-dog road it can be difficult to find your way back.

unprepared for the amount of work a dog requires when things get difficult. He is very likely to give up. His definition of "everything" is usually limited to one or two attempts. After giving up on this dog, he is unlikely to get another one unless his circumstances change significantly. He is also likely to try another "easier" breed than the one that stymied him.

A typical Easy Fixer would be the person who returned Dwayne, a current DRU U Student. According to his adopter, Dwayne had an accident on the carpet. Crating, supervision and plain old patience were out of the question. Dwayne's owner fed him, loved him and gave him a house. To him, that was "everything."

To Dwayne, it was barely enough.

The "Experienced Owner" is the most common. Having owned several dogs concurrently or over a lifetime, she is regarded by her friends and family as the resident dog expert. Sometimes she may even seek out a more difficult dog, as she is rewarded by the work of helping that dog improve.

However, when the chips are down, the Experienced Owner is more likely to feel a higher sense of frustration when all of her experience, research, and care still leave her wanting. She may have spent a fortune going to the most well-known behaviorists and alternative care practitioners, and her faith is running out. Suggestions that sound more simplistic than what she has invested in may be greeted with skepticism, but she is also more inclined to try something "one more time."

Vida's owner saw a behaviorist, tried medication and implemented a long, drawn-out desensitization program to help her extremely shy Doberman, all to no avail. Simple, balanced obedience training with its clear cut Yes/No paradigm was the answer. Vida now lived a comfortable and safe life with her loving family, as a more confident dog.

Did Vida's owner try "everything?" Almost, but in her zealous search to make things right, she had overlooked some of the basic foundation in favor of more esoteric approaches. Vida's owner was willing to "think outside the box," but she hadn't explored every nook and cranny of the box itself. And that's where her answers were found.

Vida was lucky that her Experienced Owner was open minded enough to trust a results-based trainer. Many Experienced Owners lose sight of the fact that they are experienced only with their past and

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Thinking like a trainer can solve problems

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present dogs and their experience represents only a fraction of what an accomplished trainer, veterinarian or breeder can offer. A problem dog in an Experienced Owner's home has its best chance, as long as that owner can admit that there might be gaps in her knowledge.

The "True Unbeliever" is more common than the Easy Fixer, and as likely to fail with their dog. The True Unbeliever will spend a lot of time discussing the "whys" of her dog's problems but will balk at any suggestions that fall outside her comfort level.

Rose, a perfectly nice Doberman with a spotless history, found herself adopted by a loving family who treated her as if she was one of their own children. Admonitions to grant freedom slowly and to answer what appeared to be the beginning of challenging behavior with a restriction of privileges were greeted with doubt, and eventually defensiveness, by her adopter. The concept of correcting Rose or taking away some ill-gained privileges was so odious to her True Unbeliever that she went into a sort of denial.

As Rose grew stronger in her pack-climbing, she became braver about growling and snapping at the owner's children. She turned into a consummate thief and serious guarder of laundry and unattended food, and had struck several family members. When her True Unbeliever owner told us that she'd "tried everything," we found out that "everything" in this case meant everything that was comfortable for this sensitive soul. Sadly for Rose and her owner's kids, her owner "didn't believe" in dogs sleeping anywhere but the bed, eating anything they didn't want to eat, or being sternly corrected for inappropriate behavior.

Like many True Unbelievers, Rose's owner refused to help her dog if it meant changing her emotional and decidedly un-doglike belief system. Since Rose's owner wouldn't do the right thing for the dog, Rose actually would have been better off coming back and being placed with a more sensible owner who would protect her from her own dangerous behavior.

Unfortunately, among the owner's "unbeliefs" is the concept of ever giving up on a dog for any reason. Without training and management, Rose will undoubtedly get into even more trouble, which could conceivably cost

her her life and which will add to the negative public opinion about the Doberman. Did her owner try everything? Not even a little.

Have you ever found yourself flummoxed by something your dog does? Do you live with a behavior or canine habit that doesn't seem to respond to the "everything" you've tried? Thinking (but not over-thinking) like a successful, balanced dog trainer can help you unlock the combination of common sense and creativity that solves even the most daunting problems.

What do you think you could add to the "everything" tried by the owners of Harry, Opal and Floyd? I asked a group of professional trainers what they would do in each case, and have included my own responses with theirs.

Harry, the chronically barking dog with the stomach problem, already had seen the veterinarian. But the recommended food was a commercial kibble that contained additives and preservatives that can irritate a

Some dogs have been allowed to go so far down the bad-dog path that they need to be given a whole new start.



sensitive dog's system. Switching him onto a high quality raw diet that was more bioavailable was advised. We suggested that the owners ask their veterinarian about giving Harry some Reglan to help with his reflux. Adding a bit of yogurt and/or a digestive enzyme also was suggested. Small snacks, such as biscuits between meals to keep something in his stomach, probably would help.

Since the barking and upset stomach likely were related to each other, addressing the dog's need to be both physically and mentally stimulated was deemed important. The ability to successfully complete small tasks such as simple obedience commands can help keep a dog's mind occupied and give him confidence. So adding

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A few basic truths help solve many problems

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more direction to Harry's day and capitalizing on the original good training foundation they had was recommended. When the mind is at ease, the body will often follow suit.

As an absolute last resort, to prevent a perfectly sweet dog from being surrendered due to his barking's impact on the neighborhood, debarking by a canine otolaryngist would be recommended. While debarking surgery is controversial, in this case it would be a more humane option than uprooting Harry, a sensitive dog, from the family and home he has known for most of his adult life. A debarked dog can still satisfy his need to "bark" without any negative repercussions from it.

Because Harry's person is an Experienced Owner, he listens to these suggestions, takes notes and speaks with his veterinarian. Had he been a True Unbeliever, Harry would most likely find himself barking and vomiting in a kennel run at DRU, hoping that someone else would take him on. At the moment, Harry is still with his owners, who love him enough to give him some time to adapt to the new diet and habits. Cross your fingers that these caring people and their Doberman will hang in there and be a success story.

Opal provided the most challenging situation. On paper, my colleagues and I had a lot of ideas. First, structure her exercise so she isn't just running around pointlessly "on autopilot." After all, the old bromide about exercise curing behavior problems can be discredited with the fact that the more you exercise, the stronger you get; the stronger you get, the more stamina you have; the more stamina you have, the more exercise you need.

As one colleague stated, empty physical exercise only builds that unwanted stamina and "the habit of stupidity." Mental exercise is much more effective. Therefore, Opal's owners were told to get into a structured obedience program that would have her working and interacting with her owners instead of being left to her own mischievous devices. Integrating obedience into interactive games such as Frisbee, Ball (holding a sit/stay before being released for the object), and Hide-and-Seek keep the training fun and engaging for both dog and owner.

When they were too preoccupied to have her out, her owners were advised to try crating Opal for brief periods of time so that the dog could stay out of trouble and still be in the presence of her people. The need for this would be phased out as training replaced management. An enforced long down at the owners' sides while they watch TV, check email, or otherwise occupy themselves would teach the dog self-control.

Notice how I said we had a lot of ideas on paper. In reality, Opal's people refused to change what they were doing. A pair of Experienced Owners who had morphed into True Unbelievers, they felt that the fault was entirely Opal's. Plus, while they had no problem confining Opal to a room, where she routinely destroyed whatever she could get her teeth around, they "didn't believe" in crate training.

So they returned Opal to DRU, where ironically, she did learn to spend time in a crate until she was adopted by a wonderful older man who did everything right by her for the rest of her life. Although Opal's original adopters would say that they were more experienced than her new owner, this gentleman was much more open-minded about adapting

some of his habits so that Opal would succeed in his home.

What about Floyd? The resounding advice from my colleagues and me was to stop avoiding the problem and start addressing it. Using results-based training to bring consequences to Floyd for his lunging was advised, as well as intelligent desensitizing in which Floyd learned that his obnoxious actions would only draw a passerby closer rather than scare them off. He also learned that a successfully executed sit/stay or heel command would get him praise and a reward.

Like many well-meaning owners, Floyd's person thought that her original foray into basic obedience training would suffice. And while it may have sufficed for a dog with less of an attitude, Floyd required a whole new start so we could use his prior training more reliably. Floyd and his owner started a course of private training lessons in which his specific issues were addressed.

A revamped lifestyle at home was also recommended, in which Floyd had more restrictions of territory, but more time with his owner during which he was always "working" for her. This major change helped Floyd to realize what his number was in his pack of two, and gave his owner the confidence to take charge and teach Floyd what she wanted rather than just expecting it to change on its own.

There are a myriad of answers to dog behavior problems, but only a couple of basic truths. First among these is that if you have executed a solution correctly and for the appropriate period of time but have not seen results, then you need to try something else.

Second is that there is no reason

[Continued on Page 16]

Ms. Rocky, a.k.a. Roxie

My name is now Roxie and I have finally made it to my foster home! This is a great place. I have a nice yard to play in and I love the Malamute boys that live here. Shhhhh, don't tell anyone, but would you believe I'm 10 years old? I can hardly believe it myself! I'm a semi-retired sled dog now, but I ran on a team just last winter. You'd be amazed what you can get away with if you don't tell your age. I've also



done sledding demonstrations for kids, which are lots of fun. I'm pretty sure I'll like retirement just fine, though.

My fur is gray and white and I keep my coat fairly short. I'm still a sleek 65-70 pounds, but must admit that it's not

without some effort on my part. They say I'm an "easy keeper," which actually means I can practically get fat on air. I'm still an active girl, though, but I do like to kick back and relax, too. In fact, I'm pretty quiet most of the time.

Do you live in a real house? I've never lived in a real house before but I am learning fast and I think this is going to be much better than my old dog house.

If you have room in your heart and time for a dog that won't be too much trouble, think of me and fill out an application.



Mr. Keyo

Hi, my name is Keyo. I'm a retired sled dog, but can't really say that I wore myself out working. After all, why do all that pulling work if you can get the other dogs to do it for you?

I'm a quiet, dignified gentleman of 12 years. At least I'm quiet until dinnertime, when it's still hard to contain my excitement. Other than that, I pretty much keep to myself for the most part and I'm not demanding at all.

I hope you don't think that I don't have energy left just because I'm 12. I have plenty of energy to chase things like chickens and ducks and cats. I'd like to move to a home where there are lots of chickens and ducks and cats, but I'm told that this would be a very bad idea. I would love to have another dog to keep me company though.

If you don't have small critters and are looking for a quiet, dignified, undemanding Malamute - I'm such an easygoing boy and I'm really looking forward to retirement.

Meet Our Fosters

The dogs on these pages were in foster care as of the middle of November 2005. To learn more about them, new dogs that AMRONE has taken in, or to fill out an adoption application, please visit our web site at www.amrone.org.

[See Page 12 for more dogs.]

Ms. Gracie

Hi, look at me and I will smile at you! Really, I do smile and I love to talk. I am a happy, easygoing puppy with lots of manners. I have lived with my sister Ginger since we were born but I think it is time to cut the family ties and find a family of my own. I love everyone and I am very smart. My foster home says that I am the perfect dog but that going to a beginning obedience class or doing an active sport would be good for me. It also will help me get to know my new family. I am fine with cats and I am crate-trained and doing very well with the housetraining.



Ms. Ginger

Hi. I am sure you noticed that I am a red-head. Life is good when you have the looks! I am very layed back for a puppy. My sister, Gracie, is the one that bosses me around. I also think that I am ready to find a new home and like my sister I am crate-trained and working on the housetraining thing. I know how to sit and lie down but I would like to go to school, too — obedience school. I am good with cats and my only bad habit is that I will steal things off the kitchen counter if you are not looking.



Mr. Jacques

I'm 11 years old and I weigh about 75 to 80 pounds. I love people and they love me back because my face is just so expressive. It's such fun to make them laugh!

I'm a sled dog and get great reviews because I'm so dependable and love to work, but I'm pondering retirement. Sledding is lots of fun and I love the sledding demonstrations I do for the kids, but I think it's time to settle down now, don't you? I love meeting new people, but I'm pretty sure I can still meet people now that I'm retiring.

Because I've always been a working dog, I've never lived in a house before. That sounds pretty wonderful to me, though, and I know I can learn how to live in a house with some training and time. My one requirement is that I would like another doggie roommate. I miss my old sledding team and would love to have a playmate. Is there room in your home and heart for a retired, easygoing, stately gentleman like me?



Mr. Mick

My name is Mick and I am 6 years old. I am a Malamute-husky mix. I was rescued in New Hampshire by a family who has taken very good care of me for the past six years. Unfortunately they will be moving and having less time to spend with me so they would like to find a good home for me.

I stay out doors now. I have a igloo dog house and a 50-foot run. I love being outside. I get along with all people and youngsters too. I like when I am visited by the neighborhood dogs as well.

I'm looking for a good home, so if you are interested please contact Ernie or Donna Rousseau at 1-603-286-3311.

Ms. Star

I am a star and I am looking for a new home. Don't look any further if you want a true companion. I am ready to bond with someone like glue! I want someone I can lean on and who will rub my belly when I flip over on my back. I want someone I can really call my own.

So who am I? I am black and white and a trim 59 pounds. I'm a 2-year-old girl who is affectionate and sweet. I also like to give kisses and I don't have a lot of confidence in myself. I would love to have a human who could help me experience new things and who might even give me a job. I would be a good running companion or would love to do some obedience or even that stuff I see on TV with the jumps and tunnels. I'm not so keen on living with other girl dogs but a boy would be fine. I don't want to live with any cats (they have stinky litterboxes, yuk!) I like to ride in the car and I am fine in a crate. If you want a Velcro dog (one that will be stuck on you) I am your dog!

If you think you might be the right family for one of our dogs, please read through the education section of our web site — www.amrone.org — and then fill out an on-line application. Make sure you mention the dog's name that you might be interested in when you fill out your application and please give us a little time to get back to you.



Mr. Ace

I'm so happy you are reading this because I'm such an exceptionally quiet and easygoing guy that people usually notice everybody else first.

Well, now that I have your attention...



My name is Ace. I'm 8 years old and I weigh about 70 pounds. I worked as a sled dog until last winter, so I'm in fine shape, if I do say so myself.

I got great reviews when I was working because I'm so dependable and consistent. I don't have to be working, though, as I like my time off, too. I'm very easy to get along with, so whatever you'd like to do is fine by me, work or play. Are you looking for a sweet, dependable, easygoing boy? That's me.

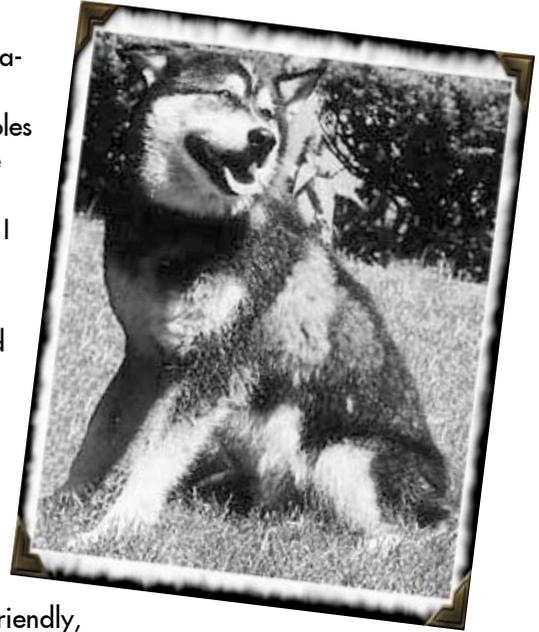
Meet Our Fosters

[More dogs on Pages 10, 11]

Mr. Markie

I am a sweet 6-year-old Malamute. I am good outside in my fenced area but I do dig big holes to lay in. I am also good inside the house. I have cats come through my yard, but although I chase them, I have never hurt any of them.

I am a very friendly neutered male who knows how to sit for a cookie, and I lie down for one, too! I love to pull on the leash when someone is trying to walk me so I do need someone to work with me on that. I would be a fun-loving dog to someone who wants a friendly, slightly large lap dog. I am about 24" tall and about 70 pounds. I'm really a playful, fun loving pal.



Mr. Rosco

Ginger is not the only good-looking mal. I am a tri-colored mal; you don't see many of me around! I just came into rescue from the home that had me since I was a pup. They let me in the house sometimes but most of the time I was tied to a tree on a pretty short cable. I haven't had much fun in life so far.

I do like people and other dogs. My foster



mom says that I need to learn some basic stuff like walking politely on a leash but that I am not out of control. I just need someone who will commit to bring me along a little at a time and be understanding of the fact that I am a 3-year-old pup with no experiences in life. I am learning about a crate now and about car riding. If you have owned a dog before and have some time and want to work with me I would love to go home with you.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM by MIKE PETERS



Are You There?

If i love you, will you care?
If i listen, will you share?

If i'm loyal, will i get fed?
If i'm lucky, i'll get the bed.

As a puppy i came to live,
To share their lives, until she had his.

It squirmed and cried, and hissed
about.
They laughed and played with him,
And i get the shout.

I still love you, you don't care.
I still listen, i get no share.

I am so loyal, i get no feed.
You never even saw when i was in need...

- Vicki Palinkas
Luv Sno Kennels



Wanted: photos of rescue dogs

Do you have a picture of a current or former AMRONE rescue dog that you'd like to share with the readers of our newsletter or the visitors to our web site? We welcome all photos.

They can feature your dog in any activity, or simply being a lovable pet. They will be used in the newsletter as space permits, and/or on the web site.

Please mail prints to:
Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New
England, Inc.
57 Paige Hill Rd.
Brimfield, MA 01010

Be sure to write on the back of the photo the dogs name, the owner(s) name, and the date the photo was taken.



AMRONE extends sympathies for the loss of these adopted Malamutes:

Nicky, Sept 2, 2005
Adopted in 1992
by Bill Ortins

Star, August 2005
Loved by Marc and
Maureen Garrett

Floyd, Aug 13, 2005
Adopted in 2001 by
Rick and Connie Knapp

Kelly, July 16, 2005
Loved by Jerry and
Kathy Ferragamo

Shadow, June 15, 2005
Loved by Al Broggi and
Carolyn Carson

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters

Hi, all.

Ginger and Gracie are here with Sam and Meeko and Jill and me thanks to Joanne and Danny and crew, and Steph and Jerry who took them overnight Friday night. We were able to integrate the four females in minutes. They are getting along just great.

Sam is noticeably absent from the pictures. She's not overly pleased with the situation, but then I'm not sure I'd be overly happy with two young whippersnappers sailing over my head either. Aside from that, the puppies are respectful of Sam's authority, and when Sam speaks, puppies listen.

We were a little fearful of Meeko's jealousy— She normally injects herself in between us and anyone else. But she's been quiet and extremely understanding. (OK, a little Benadryl definitely helps. It was intended to stop the itching of her incision, and therefore her interest in licking her wounds, but it can't hurt for puppy integration!)

They've learned the pet door very quickly. Maybe too quickly. Ginger is clearly the bolder of the two; she immediately pushed her



Meeko referees as Ginger and Gracie wrestle.

The two pups spent the night in their crates, While Meeko was locked in the bedroom with us, and Sam was allowed to curl up in her favorite corner for the night. I think I was the only one who didn't sleep through the night until Jill had to get up for work at 6 a.m. Meal time is a bit of a challenge, but the crates make it easily workable.

way in and out, while Gracie became a tailgater. Unfortunately, Ginger learned fast enough that she naturally assumed that if she could push her way through the translucent flaps of the pet door, then well, how hard could it be to get through the transparent glass door? (Bonk.)

Steph and Jerry let us know that they were not housebroken (at least not completely) yesterday. We've had only one accident, and of course, within three feet of the pet door. They are completely crate trained, and that has helped tremendously.

— Matt Fienberg

Skiloh (formerly Shadow) is happily ensconced in his new home, where he is enjoying all the spoiling benefits of being the only dog. His high points of the day include taking the staircase in two bounds (and almost taking out his people in the process!), leaping across the house into his kennel for breakfast and dinner, and flying high into the air as he greets his many neighborhood canine buddies.

The theme here is jumping, which is definitely Skiloh's forte, and which inspired the installation of a new, higher fence in his honor. However, while waiting for fence completion, Skiloh has enjoyed two (count them, two!) daily multi-mile hikes through local neighborhoods and forests. So, if a good dog is a tired dog, Skiloh has been a very, very good dog!

(Except of course, for occasionally snatching a sponge from the kitchen sink, which seems to invoke the desired lively response from his people. In fact, at the moment of this writing, Skiloh danced by with the sponge in his jaws, as though one cue!)

Thanks to Jerry and Kathy Ferragamo for welcoming him into their "pack" and fostering him so that he arrived at his new, permanent home with us, healthy and happy.

— Patti Clark and Bennie Kravitz



Skiloh enjoys the view from a bridge.

Mail Call

Letters and photos from adopters



Sammie settles in with Ella.

Hi folks,

Just a quick note — Sammie is doing just fine. We are enjoying the daylight out of her; she is just such a love!

We feel very lucky to have her come into our lives. She is settling in just fine and gets along well with our cat. They sniff each on the noses every time they pass and that's the extent of it. She really seems to be well mannered and knows sit, stay, speak, lay down etc.

She rides well and is super on the leash, a little quicker in her step than we are used to but she slows down when we ask and does not pull our arms off!

— Brad Kemp and Ella Davies

We adopted Mr. No Name mid December 2004 from Stephanie Bayliss. His new name is Magic.

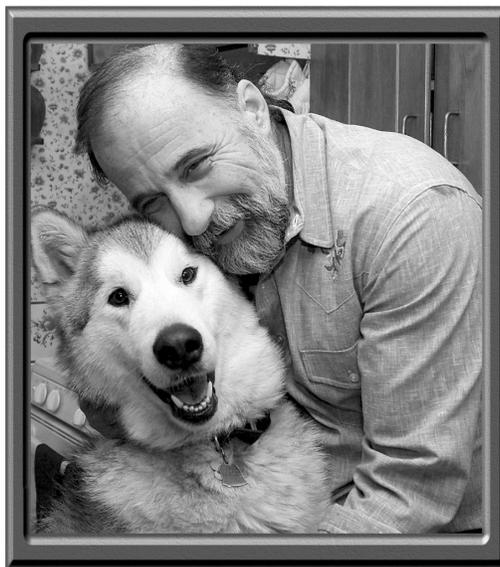
We have five greyhounds and Magic does very well with them; one is a foster who has been with us almost three months, Magic acts like the caretaker; he periodically checks where everyone is then settles down in the kitchen for the night.

Some of the enclosed pictures were his first Christmas here. We had 16 people for dinner, he was interested in everything but did great!

He is in and out frequently but he really liked being in the house with us. He also thinks he's a lap dog at times. He is VERY vocal, especially if he thinks he's missed something. He has a very interesting stare, my daughter says he is really a guy in a dog suit.

Anyway, adjustment has been good, but we are still working on a few things, like leash walking. We walk them all; he does better with Frank than with me (he's much better with stop, hold and slow).

— Frank & Jane Spinoza



Mutual happiness: It's Magic.



Nicholas — was loved by Tom & Jane Gonska.

Keeska — owned and loved by Wayne Ulbrich.



Mal Spin made our hair stand up

Question: What do a bunch of furry Malamutes, many diligent owner/groomers and 14½ pounds of hair add up to?

AnsWER: Well-groomed dogs, gratified owners, cash for AMRONE — and a beautiful throw. And by the way, do you have any idea how much dog hair 14½ pounds really is? To give you an idea, it took only a bit more than 1½ pounds to create the 66- x 52-inch throw.

The idea of Malamute Spin, a project shepherded by Ruth Ellis, was to raise some money for AMRONE by gathering fur brushed from mals and spun into yarn. Depending on how much fur was donated it could be turned into scarves, hats, pillows or gloves, with the leftover sold as skeins at camp.

But participation was so great that there was enough to make nine 66-inch throws with some left over. Rather than do that the leftover yarn was sold to the spinning company, VIP Fibers of California.

VIP Fibers used 26 ounces of the 234.08 ounces we gathered to weave the beautiful throw and purchased the remaining fiber from us for \$198, which they put up for sale on their web site. The throw was auctioned off at our annual Camp n Pack for \$200. The entire Malamute Spin Fund Raiser profited Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England a total of \$398.

Because of this success we are going to make this an annual fund raiser for AMRONE so keep saving your fur and send it to us or bring it to Bark in the Park in May.

To collect your Malamute fur, simply save what accumulates when you brush your dog. You may brush your

dog before or after a bath and anytime in between. If you collect fur that is wet, be sure to lay it out to dry before storing it. Never put fur away wet. Don't worry about it being a little dirty; the company washes all of the fiber multiple times after it has been spun.

To store your Malamute fur, use a breathable fabric bag, such as an old pillow case. Hang the bag in an open area such as your laundry room or garage.

To ship your Malamute fur, use a light box or a tear-proof mailing envelope (for smaller amounts). Your fur cannot be damaged in shipping so there is no sense in paying more for shipping than necessary. Mail your fur to AMRONE, 57 Paige Hill Road, Brimfield, MA 01010.

If you are interested in having your own dog's fur spun you can get all of the details at www.vipfibers.com or call 408-782-1412 and tell them AMRONE sent you.

A big thanks go to all of you and to VIP Fibers for making our first Malamute Spin fund raiser a great success.



Ruth Ellis, Malamute Spin organizer, shows the throw to her dog Rocky.

There's a last resort if you've 'tried everything'

[From Page 9]

to be a "true unbeliever." It is very frustrating to listen to an owner, trainer or veterinarian say that they have "tried (or advised) everything," only to find out that among all of the things they haven't tried are some time-tested basic techniques and philosophies that have helped tens of thousands of dogs succeed.

A stance of "political correctness" or a deep misunderstanding of how dogs differ from humans is no excuse for sacrificing the safety and sometimes the actual life of a dog on the altar of human pride. When an owner defensively tells me that he "doesn't believe" in something I suggest, I am very quick to let him know that even if he doesn't believe in it, his dog does, and that is who I am here to help.

So, are you still stuck on a behavior problem with your own dog? Have you "tried everything?" If you think you have, try one last thing: Contact an experienced, results-oriented, balanced trainer in your area to find out about "everything" you haven't tried. My friends and colleagues who participated in these case studies for this article are members of the International Association of Canine Professionals, an organization dedicated to improving the standards of dog professionals.

You can find a trainer such as I describe by visiting the IACP website at www.dogpro.org and looking at their members list for a professional or associate level member in your area.

Julia V. McDonough is training director for Doberman Rescue Unlimited (DRU), located in Sandown, NH.

Camp N Pack: 'It's all about the dogs'

By Ruth Mellen

"Starry nights. Fun-filled days. Camp N Pack transcends night, day or every season. It's all about the dogs. That's what keeps the weekend going — it's all about the dogs."

— Travis and Dawn Kauffman

Eight years already! Camp N Pack has grown over the years but yet never changes. As the Keppel family said, "Every year we all look forward to Camp N Pack from all our friends to the hikes and workshops. Everything is a dream come true for all the dogs. Everyone is smiling and happy. I hope this and all the other events that are sponsored by AMRONE continue for a very long time. I know our dogs love the events!"

Held each year in Tolland, MA, at Camp Timber Trails, the weekend was started for the volunteers of AMRONE and other Malamute lovers



Ernie Gaudes and his mal share a moment.



"Got any for me?" Well of course. There's plenty for all the dogs at camp. Julie Crawley doles out some treats during a respite.

to learn more about the breed and rescue, and it gives people a chance to meet their e-mail friends. Everyone is encouraged to bring their dog(s). As one camper said: "We travel a lot during the year without our dogs so it is great to come and spend a weekend that is totally about them."

This year we had 98 people and 82 dogs. Anyone and any breed of dog are welcome and this year was no exception. Besides mals we had minpins, spaniels, chows, huskies, shepherds, Dobermans and mixed breeds.

Sign-in began at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, but hardy campers already had completed a 10-mile hike with their dogs carrying a full pack. Some people come only one day while the majority attend the entire weekend. Camp Timber Trails has cabins to rent and plenty of space for tents and/or campers.

A typical weekend includes lots of fresh air, excellent food, scheduled long and short hikes, a fenced-in play area for the dogs, a large variety of workshops, agility equipment, an AMCA-sanctioned weight pull as well as a chance for any dog to try pulling, plus games for dogs and owners, and more.

[Continued on Page 19]

Volunteers make camp a success

By Ruth Mellen

All the events that occur during Camp N Pack are planned and put on by volunteers. AMRONE is a registered charity with no paid staff. This means we rely upon volunteers who so generously give of their time, skills and supplies.

The pre-camp organizing and the physical opening and closing of camp is done by our directors, their families and a group of dedicated volunteers, many of whom live near Tolland.

Danny Duval borrows an ATV and cart to help campers with their luggage. He is well appreciated: "The ATV luggage delivery system was top notch ... and the driver did a great job as always," one camper said.

The front desk is staffed all day every day, usually by directors but they were spelled for several hours by fellow campers Patti Davis, Ruth

[Continued on Page 18]

Volunteers keep campers busy

[From Page 17]

Ellis and Danny Duval.

The kitchen is staffed by Eric Munson, Arnie Benson and Tom Paine. April Wescott organized the children's activities this year and her daughter Elizabeth devoted much of the weekend to helping the cooks. A camper said: "The cooks are super—the food is out of this world for the prices we paid, and I just found out they donate their time (and they



Assisted by Barry Millman, Moses Martin offered a very popular portrait service.

don't even own Malamutes). Way to go Eric and Arnie!"

Moses Martin, an experienced amateur photographer, offered to shoot photos of campers and/or their dogs this year. He cropped, printed, framed and sold them during camp with all the money raised going to AMRONE. Moses was so popular that he welcomed help from another good photographer, Barry Millman. "The photographers were wonderful," a camper said. "What a marvelous way to remember the best weekend of the year."

Education is a major motivation for holding camp. The workshops are presented by volunteers. They plan,

often provide handouts and donate their time before and during the weekend. Campers had a diverse selection to choose from this year:

- Agility for dogs, run by Carolyn West. She offered two workshops, the first for novice dogs and the second was a timed agility event.
- Canine Good Citizen testing done by Jane Palinkas and Joanne Duval. Jane and Joanne must be "certified" by the AKC to test and certify dogs.
- A weight pulling seminar for dog owners who would like more information on pulling, offered by Jane Palinkas and Dave and Sue Gallagher
- Rally O, demonstrated by Laurel Flax in the morning before the dogs competed during the afternoon.
- Bikejoring/Skijoring, organized by Jeff Kirchhoff, offered campers a chance to try it.
- Craniosacral Therapy/TTouch by Sally Morgan.

Morgan.

- Natural Diets by Jonathan Glennon.
- Talking with your dogs by Patty Davis.
- First Aid by Jo Little.
- Taking better dog photos digitally, with Bob Mellen.
- The AMCA weight pull supervised by Sue and Dave Gallagher.

This year we tried something new, with these workshops and activities scheduled with no competition from other events:

- Keeping your dog's attention, by Mary Ferentino, a professional trainer.



Boys look over the goods at AMRONE's store.

- Health care for the older dog with Dr. Laurie S. Coger, DVM.
- Doggie games, including costume and talent contests organized by Jeannine Therique.
- A Friday morning 10-mile hike was led by the Palinkas family. During this event six dogs earned legs on their packing title.
- The Friday night campfire was followed by a stargazing walk led by Jo Little. The walk under clear, starry skies lasted about an hour.

In addition to the educational workshops, Camp N Pack raises money for rescue. These very successful events — the live auction, three silent auctions and the free-choice raffle — were put together by volunteers: Stephanie Bayliss, Roger Davies, Bob and Ruth Mellen, Joanne Duval, Jeanne Behrman, Matt Fienburg, Jill Hunter and Steve Palinkas.

All the items in the auctions and raffle were donated. Many are corporate donations but the bulk of the items come from fellow campers. "My favorite part of the weekend is the auction," one camper said. "I have memories of fun and laughing year after year. I'll always remember people outbidding themselves, belt buckle fights and harnesses worn by humans."



Dogs of all sizes attend Camp N Pack. Auctioneer Steve Palinkas, left, finds an affectionate mixed breed. Elizabeth Wescott sits with three varieties, center, and Lisa Vibert gives her minpin a mountain to climb.

Workshops, auctions highlight a busy weekend

[From Page 17]

The first evening included a campfire followed by a stargazing walk. Saturday had the majority of the workshops and games during the day. The second night had a special dinner and ended with the year's biggest fund-raiser, our live auction.

Since we had children of all ages in attendance, there were activities planned especially for them, including a scavenger hunt, a stuffed dog

show and dog videos. "What a great bunch of activities for the kids," one camper said. "They were busy all weekend and even more tired than my dogs."

The live auction is always fun and this year was no exception. Steve Palinkas joined Roger Davies as auctioneers. Between them they got the crowd invigorated and willing to bid. And when a super-sized Malamute arrived, the audience became

really enthused.

There are always a couple of items that create a stir and we refer to them as the belt buckle. Years ago two men fought over an 1999 Iditarod belt buckle and returned to repeat the "fight" over the 2000 buckle. This year we had lots of activity over two heated cabins and a scrimshaw flask. Hats off to the Keppel family for winning this year's "belt buckle." The live auction was very successful and AMRONE thanks everyone who donated or bid, thereby supporting the dogs.

The weekend also included two silent auctions on Saturday and one on Sunday as well as a free-choice raffle on Saturday.

Sunday morning is devoted to more workshops and the AMCA weight pull. This year nine dogs competed in the 80-pound and under class; three in the 81-100-pound class and Rocky in the 101-120-pound class.

Rocky, owned by Ruth Ellis, was the overall winner based on his pulling 1400 pounds in less time than the winners of the other weight classes. Two dogs competed for the first time and won their first leg.



On the money trail with AMRONE

(January – June 2005)

Income	
Adopter	\$600
Apparel Sold	\$28
Bark Park	\$2763
Camp	\$103
Donor – General	\$2499
Interest	\$70
Total Income	\$6063

Expense	
Boarding	\$165
Insurance	\$943
Licenses and Permits	\$45
Office Supplies	\$35
PayPal Service Charge	\$1
Postage and Delivery	\$14
Promotions / Education	\$100
Telephone	\$269
Veterinary Costs	\$3732
Shelter fees	\$285
Total Expense	\$5589
Net Income	\$474



LISTEN UP!
If you pay attention you might learn something. Laurel Flax gets her dog ready for a hike, left. Patti Clark, Bernie Kravitz and Carolyn West show a mal the next agility obstacle, right. The photo above speaks for itself.



**ALASKAN MALAMUTE
RESCUE**



OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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